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FLOOR DEBATE

April 17, 2002 LB 185, 1105, 1132

amendment. I do support the motion to suspend the germaneness rule and move on this evening.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I, likewise, echo what Senator Coordsen said. I support the suspension of the rules. There's two...these are two very distinct bills that we were talking about here and, as Senator McDonald said, we had thought we had LB 1130...it was LB 1132, was the short line bill Speaker priority and then it was an amendment filed. And I'm kind of between a rock and a hard spot because I did support LB 185. But LB 1132, or this amendment we're talking about now, has a whole different level of support. It came out committee 7-0, 1 person absent, 2 very different issues, distinct levels of support much different and it was something we needed to get done for rural Nebraska for economic development purposes. These short line railroads are profitable. When they bought them, though, there was a lot of work to do to update them and they're trying to get the track out at the line that runs through my district up to snuff so they can carry the 286,000-pound cars. It's rather expensive and, as Senator McDonald pointed out, this fund hasn't been used for ten years because of the restrictive collateral requirements. So I make a very distinct comparison here between the two bills that we're talking about, LB 1132 and LB 185, and that's why we chose this route. We couldn't find any place else to go. And if you'll look on your screen, LB 1132 has, on...on the base bill, has an amendment which was LB 185, so that was part of the reason we didn't get it on consent calendar or Speaker priority. So I support the motion to overrule or to suspend the rules and would hope we could adopt the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Kremer, on the motion to suspend the rules.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the body. I won't take much time but I would also support the amendment to suspend the rules. This is very important to a short line railroad in my district where it needs to repair some